

K D. B. [ 1 ]  
**Knavery unmask'd,** 8/6. m. 19

In a LETTER to Mr. P——y. 69  
7. 23

N. B. *The following Letter superscrib'd to Mr. P——y at the T—— Exchange-H—— in H—— Garden, being drop'd in the Street, it was printed at the Request of the Person who took it up.*

Mr. P——y,

**I** Send this by one of the Half-penny Carriage, to acquaint that the Company I gave you a Hint of met last Night at the Place appointed. You will imagine no Opportunity was lost to encourage such as we found inclin'd to become Subscribers. R—— mov'd the Matter; he was seconded by E——, who urg'd several Reasons to testify your honest Intentions to the Subscribers, of which some of the Company seem'd to have very ambiguous Thoughts, and added, that you had far more advantageous Proposals in View, in Case a good Bank could be rais'd by Subscription: At which some of the Company smil'd; tho' I must tell you E—— manag'd his Part so subtly that several were for subscribing instantly, when on a sudden G—— starts up, swore he never lik'd any of your Whimsies, (as he term'd 'em) and believes them to be all of a Piece with your Projects of selling Fourteen Three Bushel Sacks of Coals to the Chaldron; which (said he) when measur'd came short of Twelve. R—— (to mend the Matter) replies, "That the Smallness of the Sacks would have been no Injury to the Subscribers had the Project continu'd."

This silly Slip prov'd very unlucky, and gave Room to those who ever conceiv'd but indifferently of you, to make Reflections; for S——, whom you know, had his Reply at his Finger's End: "Gentlemen, (said he) I think we need not give Mr. P——y's Friends any further Trouble to convince us how much it concerns our Interest, as well as our Reputation, to become Subscribers to his Projects."

'Tis a general Maxim, and very applicable on this Occasion, *That he who has been held unfaithful in any Respect, will not cease to be so when something worth Acceptance offers.* 'Tis also observable, that such Projects afford more Opportunities to K——s than honest Men. But because we are told that Mr. P——y is a Gentleman, and therefore ought not to have his Honesty question'd, it may not be amiss to give you a short Account of his Pedigree.



He was first a Baker, and sold Bread, which he converted into a Hatter's Shop; the Hats failing his Expectation, he turn'd them into Sand-pits, bought Horses to work at the Pits, and freighted out Ships with Sand: Yet this would not do neither, then the Pits and Horses were turn'd into Canes, Buckles, Thimbles and Bodkins; for the Sale of which he hir'd a Shop in *Wapping*, where he undertook the *Cole* Project before hinted: And now we find him in *H—Garden*, imposing his whimsical shuffling Tricks upon the People whether they will or not, and dinning their Brain with sly insinuating Cant, in Vindication of his Office of Raggamuffins; nor was ever any Place under the Name of an Office appointed to so many scoundrel Purposes.

Having fitted himself with Emissaries and Tools to his Purpose, his Papers were dispers'd about to give Notice that Mr. P——y had erected an Office call'd *The T—Exchange-H—*, for the Benefit of Shop-keepers and others, that whosoever had any Goods, Parcels, or Pacquets, to send to any Parts within the Bills of Mortality, were desir'd to deliver them to the Messengers appointed by the said Mr. P——y, which they were to send to the *T—Exchange-H—*, and from thence deliver'd as directed.

A very pretty Story, and had more Cunning than Honesty in it I dare say! But whether the People were really jealous of this New Fashion *Exchange-H—*, or rather chose to employ an honest Porter they did know, than trust a Fellow whom no body knew, is not much Matter, since 'tis certain that the Baskets return'd every Day empty; and lucky 'twas that they did, for *Sharp was the Word in those Days*.

This Project failing, it was propos'd to make the Office a Place of Sale for all Sorts of Merchandizes, and Notice was given accordingly; but (whether for Fear of an Embargo, or other the like Reason) that Project funk also. Then a Whim was set on Foot to make it an Office of General Intelligence, and a mighty Bustle was made that such a one wanted a Servant, and such a one a Master, (*A special Place indeed for the Recommendation of either!*) and whosoever would bring their Advertisements to *Jack of all Trade's Office*, should have them printed cheap to a Miracle, and good Security given, that few People should be the wiser for 'em. Thus was the Town pester'd with Noise of Bells and Nonsense in the Fame of this Projector for Years together.

But all these Whimfies being equally unsuccessful, a most rare Business was found out, call'd *The Remarks on T—de*, the Profit of which was, as pretended, to build Hospitals with, and to maintain poor Boys at School; and so artificially dish'd out, that several well-meaning Persons in meer Respect to the pretended Design, order'd the

the Paper to be left at their Houses, tho' the Matter it is fill'd with is to as insignificant a Purpose as my being told to morrow what I did yesterday. The Paper by this insinuating Stratagem, meeting with some Encouragement, the Boys who dispers'd the said Paper were all discarded, and the Charity Cant converted into a Project for Insurance upon Lives, to all such as would take in the said Paper at 2 s. 6 d. per Quarter. And for the better Encouragement of the Subscribers to the said Paper, he tells them, " That he has lately had a great Estate left to him, which (says he) I will leave amongst you at my Death. *This is Coaks him Pug with a Witneß!* And now 'tis turn'd to a Fire Office; *truly, a very proper Name!* for it must of Necessity be a hot Place where so many Devils are concern'd. But I must take care what I say: *What, call Seignior del Baker, Hatter, Sand-man, Thimble-merchant, Cole-monger, Grand Porter, Chief Master of the Hocus Pocus Fire-Office and Half-penny Car——ge a Devil?*

What can be the Meaning of all such Shifting and Tricking, but to coulsen and defraud the Ignorant, under feign'd Pretences of serving them? It is in Effect encouraging Vagabonds, and such Wretches whom no Man (upon any other Occasion) would suffer to come near his Door, and starving the industrious Poor, as if purposed in a Time of Scarcity, to stir them up into Tumults and Insurrections. Would it not much better become Men of Ingenuity and Substance, to employ their Talents to the finding out of Means for the Relief of poor necessitous Families, rather than to encourage and contribute to such base and fraudulent Artifices, the Effect of whimsical and humorous Dispositions, and the Study of none but K——s and Sharpers, to deceive the Undesigning, and circumvent poor Men in their honest and industrious Livelihood: And where can the Consequence of this pretended thrifty Bait end, but in the forcing whole Families upon the Parishes, to set Beggars on Horseback, and countenancing a Gang of busy and sordid Miscreants, who, if they had but Power equal to their Impudence, would proclaim all your Laws and Judges Arbitray, if molested in their subtil and selfish Intrigues. If I see a poor Man by his laborious and honest Industry maintain a Wife and several small Children in Credit, must I be a Contributor to reduce him to Beggary? Where is the Advantage or Honour in such an inconsiderable Action? Should I not in such Case be the like Figure with him who can make use of his Coat Sleeve because a Handkerchief will cost him a Shilling? And who but such Mercenary Wretches, not fit to be trusted with a Groat of any honest Man's Money, would stoop to such base and shuffling Means? But that there are many such narrow princip'd and good for nothing Tools amongst us, is too notorious, who carry on their fraudulent and insulting Stratagems under Colour of Publick Services, plead



plead Liberty and Property in Vindication of their Contempt of Authority, and look upon it as a great Piece of Wit and well manag'd Husbandry to circumvent and over-reach their innocent Neighbour. And what a Confusion must it strike in the Face of a consciencious Man to find himself decoy'd into the Society of such a rapacious and devouring Gang? or who can tell to what Purposes the Intrigues of such a Cabal may be thrust into if continu'd? And as to those who have subscribed to the Half-penny Car——ge in Expectation of Gain, need no surer Testimony of the Cheat, than the scandalous Preamble in *Monday's* Remark; and he must be embolden'd with Impudence to Admiration, that could dare to impose such Absurdities upon a Nation. And as for those who are for encouraging of it meerly for the sake of saving the Half-penny, will do well to consider the old Proverb, of *Penny Wise and Pound Foolish*. Has not every Pick-pocket and Sharper an equal Right with Mr. P——y's Men, to go about the Streets and Collect your Letters and Pacquets under Pretence of their being Half-penny Car——ge? If Mr. P——y distinguishes his Emisaries with a Bell and a Badge of their Master's Impudence, may not the other wear the like Distinction? And may they not also as reasonably be trusted as any employ'd in that Concern by Mr. P——y or his Agents? *A special Crew to be establish'd!* Or what Man in his Wits will put it in the Power of such, to ransack his Letters and betray his Correspondence and Dealing? Not that I question the Care of the Pretenders to the Half-penny Car——ge, in collecting Letters for the Town, or the General Post, because there is Money to be got by it, especially by the Foreign Letters; but who shall be Security for the Delivery?—— Mr. P——y has flatly deny'd it on his Part.

The Order and Expedition wherewith the Penny-post Letters are convey'd speak it self; the Letter-carriers collect the Country Letters in their several Walks every Post Night, and certainly the Satisfaction a Man has that he has entrusted his Affairs to the Care of honest Men, and his Letters convey'd to the Post-Office by those for whose Behaviour there is good Security given, and sure of Redress in case he has just Cause of Complaint; I say, this Satisfaction in such a Case to Men of Business and Dealing, may (one would think) make him easy under the Charge of a Half-penny more.

Thus you have heard what pass'd at our Meeting, which I thought very proper for you to know; and am,

Yours, B. D.

St. John's Street,  
December 13, 1709.